

Update on the Maine Clean Election Fund for the 2016 Election Cycle

Recently, the Ethics Commission has received questions about the sufficiency of the Maine Clean Election Fund for this year's elections. The Fund likely is in good shape for this election cycle, but we cannot rule out a shortfall.

The Maine Clean Election Fund will be able to make all of the basic payments for the general election, and will be able to make most – if not all – payments of supplemental funds that are requested by MCEA candidates. A cash shortfall would occur only if larger numbers of MCEA candidates qualify for higher numbers of supplemental payments. There will be \$4.8 million available before the general election to cover payments to candidates, as well as staff and administrative expenses.

Even with a possibility of a shortage in the fall, there is no need for candidates to rush to submit additional qualifying contributions or to request more than the candidate thinks he or she will need for the election.

As always, the Commission staff will be monitoring the demand on the Maine Clean Election Fund. If we anticipate that a shortfall could occur, we would make a public announcement and the topic would be discussed at one of the monthly meetings of the Commission.

Jonathan Wayne
Executive Director